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Conservation Commission Minutes 03/19/2009

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES MARCH 19, 2009

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, William O'Rourke and Catherine Garnett, Charles Tirone, and Ellen Reed of the Commission. Brian Thomas, applying for Associate membership, was also in attendance. Ezra Benjamin, of the Commission, and Administrator Cori Beckwith were not in attendance.

Also in attendance were: Greg Hunt and Chad Cox of GZA Geoenvironmental, Mike Galvin of DCR, Mary Keefe, Vern Schaejre, Lorraine Barra, Steve Revilak, and Frank Paragon of the Sunnyside Neighborhood.

7:45 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

The DPW is organizing an Ecofest on March 28, 2009. The Conservation Commission is working to have a table at this event. E. Reed will create a portable wetland for the table. Commission members will take turns manning the table during the event.

Article 30, coming before Town Meeting, will transfer McClellan Park to the Park and Recreation Department. Even though there is a wetland within this park, the Con Comm does not feel this piece of land should be under its jurisdiction.

The Cemetery Committee would like to discuss green burials in the rows closest to Meadowbrook Park. C Garnett moves to have more information on this topic, seconded by C Tirone.

E. Reed will look into grants to fund publication of The Walking Book. Commission members may also look for sponsors for the book such as bike shops, realtors, coffee shops, banks.

0 Spy Pond – Mr. Tirone reported that a wood chipper seen on site as well as some cutting. Commission approved removal of dead wood. House foundation is in. C. Tirone will try to stop by site when work is being done.

8:00 pm – NOI Continuation for Mystic Lakes Dam

C. Garnett recused herself and left the meeting at this point.

The Commission received electronic responses to comments made at the previous hearing from Santec. Both D White and W O'Rourke felt satisfied with their comments and answers to the commission's questions. White/ O'Rourke moved to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

Conditions discussed included approving this job as a "regular" project rather than as a "limited project" since it met all regulatory performance standards. The Commission would also like to see erosion control in place at time of site walk (time and date to be determined). D White moved to approve as discussed. C Tirone seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8:15 pm Alewife Greenway NOI Continuation

The Commission discussed the changes and conditions for the Alewife Greenway project. It was noted by the Commission that the boat ramp has been moved and the design improved and additional tree plantings have been noted on the drawings. The Commission will ask to be included in the tagging of trees for removal and that Norway Maples over 5" dbh not be considered invasive and have a replacement value.

The Commission reviewed the conditions suggested by Cori Beckwith including sediment control (filtrex silt sox), that DCR must

mark resource areas work begins, and that the final lay out of the path be determined with the Commission.

C. Tirone discussed the staging areas as shown on the drawings. Mr Tirone strongly urged that soil removal from the tires and street sweeping be instituted as needed as well as storm drain silt box inspection. Mr Tirone requested that a revised staging area plan be submitted, before work begins, as a condition for this permit. Specifically on drawing ES-5, it be removed and located elsewhere and on ES-6, the truck wash pad be eliminated and have contractors wash tires at the egress pad.

Either C. Tirone or E. Reed will try to meet weekly with onsite crew and inspect the job site weekly.

C. Tirone moved to approve with conditions and W. O'Rourke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Reed
Commission member